

1. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a body;

a first leg attached to the body and extending downward to form a first leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface;

a second leg attached to the body and extending downward to form a second leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface;

a center leg moveably attached to the body and extending downward between the first leg and the second leg to form a center leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface, the center leg fixable in any one of a plurality of positions; and

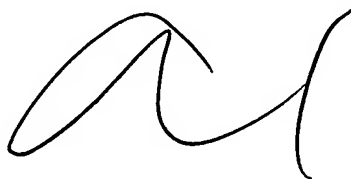
a handle moveably attached to a top of the body and fixable in any one of a plurality of positions.

2. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a body having a top and an underside opposed the top;

a first leg attached to the body and forming a first side surface, the first leg extending below the underside of the body to form a first leg work piece-contacting surface; and

a center leg attached against the underside of the body and extending below the underside of the body to form a center leg work piece-contacting surface, the center leg moveable to a plurality of positions relative to the first side surface to form a first tunnel having a selected width through which a cutting device may pass, the first tunnel defined by the first leg, the center leg and the underside of the body.



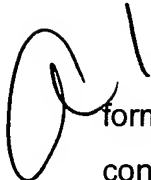
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a second leg attached to the body opposed the first leg and forming a second side surface, the second leg extending below the underside of the body to form a second leg work piece-contacting surface; and

wherein the center leg is moveable to a plurality of positions between the first leg and the second leg to form a second tunnel having a selected width through which a cutting device may pass, the second tunnel defined by the second leg, the center leg and the underside of the body.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising the first leg having a width different than a width of the second leg.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a handle extending above the top of the body, the handle being attachable to the body at a plurality of positions relative to the first leg and the center leg.

 6. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a non-slip surface formed on each of the first work piece-contacting surface and the center work piece-contacting surface.

7. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a spacer removably attached to the first leg and having a spacer side surface remote from the first side surface and having a spacer bottom surface, the spacer attachable to the first leg in a plurality of positions to extend the spacer bottom surface below a plane of the first leg work piece-contacting surface.

8. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:  
a spacer having a non-slip surface and a slip surface opposed the non-slip surface; and

the spacer being selectively attachable to the first leg to position one of the slip surface and the non-slip surface as a spacer bottom surface.

9. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:  
the first, second and center leg work piece-contacting surfaces being disposed in a first plane; and  
a balance support attached to one of the first leg and the second leg, the balance support comprising a bottom support surface extendable to a position below the first plane.

10. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:  
a spacer attached to the first leg and moveable to a plurality of vertical positions relative to the body;  
a stabilizing plate attached to the spacer and having a stabilizing plate edge extending under the first leg and moveable to a selected one of a plurality of horizontal positions.

11. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a hook formed in the stabilizing plate edge.

12. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:  
an open-ended slot formed in the spacer;  
a shoulder washer;  
a bolt attached to the stabilizing plate and extending through the shoulder washer; and  
the shoulder washing being sized to form a snug fit when inserted into the open-ended slot to attach the stabilizing plate to the spacer.

13. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:  
a shield comprising a connector to position the shield at a first position relative to the body;  
the shield further comprising a second connector to position the shield at a second position relative to the body.



14. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:  
a keyway formed in the top of the body;  
a shield comprising a first key for insertion into the keyway to position the shield at a first position relative to the body;

the shield further comprising a second key for insertion into the keyway to position the shield at a second position relative to the body.

15. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:  
a handle;  
a nut disposed in the keyway; and  
a bolt extending through a hole formed in the handle and threaded into the nut for connecting the handle to the body.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tapering device comprising a first edge extending to make parallel contact with an edge of the work piece and a second edge moveable to a plurality of angles with respect to the first edge.

17. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the tapering device comprises:

a bottom plate;  
a top plate pivotally attached to the bottom plate and fixable at a plurality of angles in relation thereto;  
a first memory stop connected to the bottom plate for abutting the top plate when it is positioned at a first of the plurality of angles; and  
a second memory stop connected to the bottom plate for abutting the top plate when it is positioned at a second of the plurality of angles.

18. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

a means for adjusting a width of the tunnel to accommodate a plurality of cut geometries.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a non-slip surface formed on each of the work piece-contacting surfaces.

20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means for balancing the structure when the work piece has a width insufficient to make contact with the work piece-contacting surfaces on both opposed sides of the cutting device.

21. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means attached to the structure for maintaining an edge of the work piece at a selected one of a plurality of angles with respect to a cut line.

22. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

a handle attached to the structure and moveably fixable at any one of a plurality of positions along a width of the structure for positioning the handle relative to the tunnel.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the handle being moveably fixable at a position wherein a longitudinal axis of the handle is disposed at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the tunnel.



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24. (withdrawn) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure comprising at least one work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to urge a work piece past a cutting device; and

a balance support moveably attached to the structure at any one of a plurality of positions to extend a bottom surface of the balance support to a position below a plane of the at least one work piece-contacting surface.

25. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a means for moveable attaching the balance support to the structure so that the bottom surface of the balance support may be positioned in a plane that is not parallel to the plane of the at least one work piece-contacting surface.

26. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

each of the at least two work-piece-contacting surfaces comprising a non-slip surface.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the structure comprises two legs a first leg and a second leg each extending from a body to define the tunnel, each leg comprising one of the ~~form a~~ respective work piece-contacting surface surfaces; and

a means for adjusting the ~~relative positions of the~~ legs relative to each other ~~first leg and the second leg to adjust a width of the tunnel.~~

28. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a first structure defining a first tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the first structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device;

a second structure defining a second tunnel through which the cutting device may pass after having passed through the first tunnel, the second structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to the work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

a bridge connecting the first structure and the second structure to align the first tunnel and the second tunnel along a line of the cutting device.

29. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the bridge further comprises:

a first plate attached to the first structure and the second structure;

a second plate pivotally attached to the first plate and fixable at any one of a plurality of positions with respect to the first plate.

30. (new) An apparatus for moving a work piece past a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a body comprising a straight edge for contacting a straight guide fence; and

a work piece contacting member connected to the body for holding the work piece in a fixed position relative to the body and relative to the guide fence as the body is moved past the cutting device by sliding the straight edge along the guide fence.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising:  
an inside cut work piece contacting member connected to the body for holding an  
inside cut portion of the work piece in a fixed position relative to the body and relative to  
the guide fence as the body is moved past the cutting device; and  
an outside cut work piece contacting member connected to the body for holding  
an outside cut portion of the work piece in a fixed position relative to the body and  
relative to the guide fence and relative to the inside cut work piece as the body is moved  
past the cutting device.

32. (new) An apparatus for controlling a work piece as it is moved past a  
blade of a table saw, the apparatus comprising:  
a body having an edge for sliding contact with a guide fence of the table saw;  
an inside leg and an outside leg each extending from the body to contact the  
work piece on opposed sides of a cut line created by the blade as the work piece is  
moved past the blade by sliding the edge along the guide fence;  
wherein the inside leg comprises a work piece contacting member for exerting a  
pushing force, a downward force and a lateral force directed toward the guide fence on  
an inside cut portion of the work piece as the body is moved past the blade; and  
wherein the outside leg comprises a work piece contacting member for exerting a  
pushing force and a downward force on an outside cut portion of the work piece to  
maintain as constant the relative positions of the inside cut portion and the outside cut  
portion as the work piece is moved past the blade.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising a handle connectable  
to the body at a plurality of positions for exerting a force on the body to generate the  
respective pushing, downward and lateral forces, a position of the handle on the body  
being selectable to achieve a desired control of the work piece.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein one of the plurality of positions  
places the handle directly over the cut line as the work piece is moved past the blade.

*Concluded*